From Oliver Johnson.

Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 2 March, 1864.

My Dear Garrison,

I wish I could have an hour's talk with you, for then I would tell you some things about Mr. Thompson's reception here that I cannot well put on paper. I regret that I did not happen to see Mr. Phillips before he went to see Mr. Ballard, the manager of the Young Men's Republican Union, for in that case I think the affair might have been better managed than it was. But when I went to

see Mr. Ballard, I found that he and his friends had already shaped the preliminaries according to their own ideas, and that I could ~~only~~ not advise them without seeming to interfere with plans already settled. I took it for granted, however, that they would carry out their plans efficiently, leaving no stone unturned to secure a large audience and an influential platform; and being suddenly summoned to Pennsylvania, to the funeral of Aaron Mendenhall's wife, I was necessarily absent at the very time when, if I had been at home, I should have felt it my duty to look after the affair. The advertisements of the meeting was

delayed for several days, to give Gen. Fremont time to decide whether he would take the chair, and then the matter was not noticed as it should have been, and might have been, by the daily papers. I do not suppose that such was the design of Mr. Ballard, but the effect of what he did and what he left undone was to create an impression that the affair was somehow identified with Gen. Fremont as a Presidential candidate; and the speech of the General, in spite of his generous tribute to the Abolitionists, was, so far as it related to Mr. Thompson, very cautiously worded, while in one

passage it seemed to squint toward
his ~~own Presidential~~ ~~this White House~~ aspirations. If I had
got fair hold of the matter at first, I
feel sure that I could have got up
a requisition upon Mr. Thompson,
as you did in Boston, of a character to
have precluded any misapprehension
on the part of the public, and ensured
a great audience.

But in spite of these mistakes,
the meeting was a grand one, and
has left a fine impression. If it was
not all that it ought to have been,
and might have been, we may yet
felicitate ourselves that it served
to bring Mr. Thompson in a very fa-
vorable light before many of the very
best people in New York, and to prepare
the way for further labors on his part here.